



**Montana Department of Transportation**

Jim Lynch, Director  
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

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February 17, 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners  
215 South Fourth, Suite A  
Hamilton, MT 59840-2853

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Ravalli County Commissioners

Subject: Project ID: BR-STPS 203-1(11)10  
Project No.: 4854  
Designation: Florence-East

The Montana Department of Transportation hereby requests the support of Ravalli County in designating the above referenced project as a "controlled access highway and facility".

The safety and efficiency of a modern highway are directly related to the amount and character of roadside interference, most of which is caused by vehicles moving to and from businesses, residences, farms and other developments along the highway. Uncontrolled approaches to a highway nullify carefully planned safety and maintenance features, resulting in early obsolescence of the highway. It is, therefore, necessary to establish regulations controlling highway access.

Access management is the systematic control of location, spacing, design and operation of driveways, median openings, interchanges and street connections. It sets forth guidelines for managing access points and spacing along a highway, adding turn lanes, incorporating turning restrictions, consolidating accesses, and implementing traffic control measures.

The goal of access management is to improve safety, function, and operation of the roadway, and to ultimately provide a system that serves both local and regional users. Implementation of access management in conjunction with land use planning policies helps to restrict growth in rural, undeveloped areas and encourages densification in areas where growth has already occurred and a high degree of access is available.

If you support this project being designated a "controlled access facility", we request that you submit to us a letter stating that support. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 523-5800.

Sincerely,

Dwane Kailey  
Missoula District Administrator

copies: Greg Pizzini, Access Management  
Bill Squires, Missoula Area Engineer  
PC File

Shane Stack